CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extentions of Remarks

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was $12,089,226,465,642.57.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,538,425,743,80. This means the national debt has increased by $1,540,800,719,348.77 so far this year.

The Commission is charged with the planning, construction and design of the museum. The Commission’s members will also help for- mulate the museum’s organizational structure and how to engage the Hispanic community in its development and design.

These individuals are not only dedicated to the mission of making a National Museum of the American Latino a reality, but they are also representative of the great diversity of the Hispanic community that the museum will showcase.

The story and history of Hispanic-Americans is part of the rich tapestry of this nation’s his- tory. Hispanics have enriched our great nation in a myriad of ways. Hispanics have served proudly in America’s defense from the Amer- ican Revolution to our current engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan. The number of His- panic-owned businesses approached 3 million in 2008 and they contribute approximately $389 billion dollars annually to the U.S. econ- omy.

The Hispanic-American experience is part and parcel of the American story. I will be honored to join these talented men and women tomorrow with the rest of the members of the Commission. Through their efforts, women tomorrow with the rest of the members of the Commission. Through their efforts, Americans from all walks of life will one day be able to see and appreciate the contribu- tions of Hispanic-Americans to our great na- tion.